



# The Congregate Tidings

Volume 40 Issue 10

October 2026

## Deacon's Corner and more...

By Helen Goss – Diaconate Chair

The summer has escaped our grasp and fall is upon us. The air is crisp with the threat of that hard frost which signals Mother Nature's final warning that it's time to prepare for the winter that lies ahead. So how do you prepare? Do you do a fall cleaning that involves washing windows, taking screens off, putting up storm windows, changing curtains, and switching your clothing from warm weather to colder temps? Then there's the ceremonial last lawn mowing, putting away the outside furniture, checking water shutoffs, and closing down your gardens on one of those perfect Indian summer days, right? Well, depending on your housing, maybe you don't have to do all these things, but the point is; *you prepare for what's to come.*

Being a church member or friend of this church also means we need to prepare for what or who is to come. It does not mean sitting by idly waiting for our next pastor, or coming up with ideas for someone else to carry out. We need to be giving some real thought to what we can accomplish together in our community of faith. Nothing is too small or too big to consider, and it doesn't matter if we have tried and failed at it before. This time around could be a game changer with a passionate leader. But we need to get these ideas out in the open and share with one another to see what we can create.

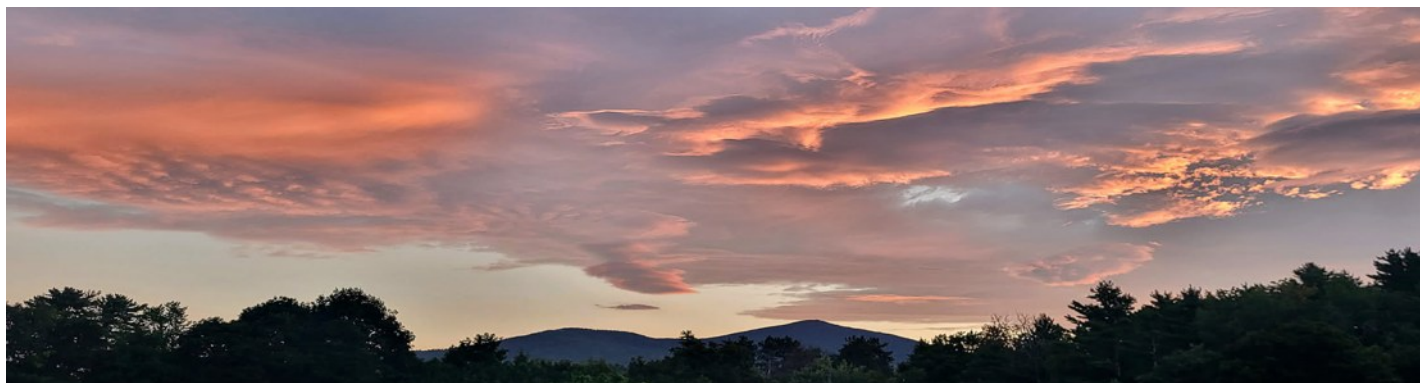
So let's plan a **potluck** for after church in on **October 18th**, would you bring a dish to share and at least **two ideas** to put in a **"God is Good"** box? There is no limit to your suggestions, which can be anonymous if you so choose. The box will be in the Fellowship Hall on the refreshment table the beginning of October. You can drop in your thoughts any time. We will share the contents of the box during lunch for discussion and pick out a few to work on during dessert. There will be a sign-up for what you want to bring: a favorite casserole, seasonal bread, soup options abound, chili, or baked beans, just to give you some ideas. **Dessert will be provided**, so please keep your dish to lunch meal items. It is rumored that this *may* be a **Hymn Sing Sunday**, so there should be ample time to break bread together!

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The Diaconate continues to meet on a monthly basis and has faithfully seen that there is someone to lead worship each week. We are always open to your helpful suggestions and to work with anyone that feels they have a message to share. There are a variety of ways to deliver a message. Won't you come join us? Hope to see you **in** church soon!

View overlooking the Moats from the Vaughan/Church campus.



(Courtesy photo by Mark Schiller)

## LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY A COMMUNION CALYPSO HYMN

By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chair

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. It is a time of profound Christian unity, marked by our shared celebration of the Lord's Supper.

On October 4, 2026, Christians in every culture will break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they will remember that they're a part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians will celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations.

The Rev. Frederik H. Kaan, (1929-2009) was a prolific 20th Century English-language hymnologist and linguist, who once described himself as the "world's most surprised hymn writer." Born in the Netherlands, to Dutch parents, Frederik endured the Nazi occupation of his native country as a youth. He only began learning English at the age of 16, was unable to read music but yet went on to write more than 200 hymns in English, with translations into over fifteen languages.

After the war, Frederik attended Utrecht University in the Netherlands, studying theology and psychology. In 1952 he was accepted for ministerial training at Western College in Bristol, England and was ordained a minister of the Congregational Church in 1955. His first pastorate was in South Wales. In 1963, Rev. Kaan moved to Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England where he became a part of the hymn explosion, writing hymns for his own hymnal supplement.

Kaan's passionate commitment to peace, social justice, and Christian unity was reflected in many of his sermons and have had a major influence on the church in the last half of the twentieth century, enabling the church to sing the faith in plain but moving speech. He was once quoted as saying - "If the different faiths cannot agree to act together, what hope is there for us?"

One of the best loved hymn texts written by Frederik Kaan is "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (# 347 in The New Century Hymnal). This hymn affirms the joyfulness of Communion and its world-transforming nature.

The music of the Caribbean Islands is not often associated with hymn tunes. Yet the religious heritage of these islands is rich, having been influenced by the Europeans of various nations who claimed these islands and settled them and by individuals who worked there as slaves.

For a time, Jamaican composer Doreen Potter lived in Geneva, Switzerland, on the same street as Kaan. This happy coincidence resulted in several musical collaborations, including this "Communion Calypso" in 1975. It is a natural choice for use on World Communion Sunday. The memorable tune LINSTED, a lively, spirited Jamaican folk tune in a calypso style that is easy to learn and fun to sing, together with the strong text by Frederik Kaan, make this an infectious song to sing. I enjoy singing "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" on Communion Sundays and hope you do too.

All this joyful noise helps remind us of what communion really is: the joyful feast of the people of God.





Pictured above is Mackenzie Carpenter and Natalie Gammon at last year's Trunk or Treat.

## Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director

School is in full swing now. We have a few openings in our pre-K and preschool classrooms, and are seeking an Infant Teacher.

Mud Bowl went well despite the rain on Sunday.

We are gearing up for fall and our annual Trunk or Treat. If you are interested in donating candy, we would appreciate any we can get. You can drop it off with Heather or Natalie at the Center.

We are be looking for guest readers. This would be once a month for anyone interested.

## Neighbors In Need Offering

By Karen Umberger, Mission Committee



Each quarter the UCC has a special offering, this quarter's offering is Neighbors In Need. Neighbors In Need focuses on justice, advocacy and direct services. One third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. The UCC supports 20+ Native American congregations primarily in the west. Two-thirds of the offering goes to support justice initiatives.

The focus for this year is environmental justice removing non recyclable items from waste streams and encouraging everyone to recycle whatever they can. The other areas that become a focus in different years are racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women's justice, and immigration justice.

Neighbors in Need also provides grants to local churches who apply. They fall into the categories of Immediate Needs, Direct Service Advocacy, and Innovative Justice programs.

We will be collecting for Neighbors In Need on October 4th, but please realize you can contribute anytime during the month of October.

## WELCOME, LAURIE TURLEY!!



We are sharing the following press release that our local paper could not manage to print announcing Laurie's arrival on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, it has been revised and submitted again for release. However, as we have been denied before, we are sharing directly with our faith community so you can spread the word!

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC in North Conway is excited to welcome our new Music Director, Laurie Turley. With a broad musical background, Laurie brings a wealth of talent to our church' music ministry.

When Anne Polak, our former Chancel and Handbell Choir Director along with our pianist/organist, Patrick Speckamp left the end of August to serve closer to where they reside, it left big shoes to fill. In the words of Muriel Magg, Music Team Chair, "We were so fortunate to find Laurie to continue our musical program, which has been our strength at First Church for decades. We truly have been blessed!"

Laurie, a resident of Bridgton, Maine, earned her music degree from the University of Southern Maine. She taught elementary and middle school music in Portland and Cape Elizabeth before moving to Fryeburg and teaching K–6 music for 25 years in the Conway, NH Public Schools. Laurie also served as church organist, choir director, and accompanist for several years at the Fryeburg New Church, and has since served as a substitute musician for many local churches across Maine and New Hampshire.

In addition to her church ministry, Laurie and her husband, Ken, have taught instrumental lessons and performed together for over 40 years across various styles—ranging from sacred music for services, weddings, and funerals, to jazz, blues, and light rock bands, as well as writing and performing original songs throughout Western Maine and New Hampshire. After several years of performing in the Mountain Top Community Orchestra, this September marks the beginning of Laurie's fourth year as the orchestra's conductor; a position dear to her heart.

Please join us Sundays at 10:00AM for worship to experience the joy of music in our sanctuary. Laurie will be leading the Chancel and Handbell Choirs in song, along with performing on our Moller Organ and Knabe Grand Piano. It promises to be a glorious new beginning of the next musical chapter in the life of First Church. For more information, please contact our church office at 603-356-2324 or check our website at [www.firstchurchnc.com](http://www.firstchurchnc.com), where you can access the YouTube link to live stream our services.





*Official Call to the*  
**2026 Annual Meeting**  
 of the New Hampshire Conference & Granite State Association

*New Every Morning • Saturday, October 24, 2026 • Geneva Point Center and online*

***Official Call to the 2026 Annual Meeting***  
**New Hampshire Conference & Granite State Association**

**Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,**

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the 225th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference also serving as the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Granite State Association.

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**What / When / Where**

- **What:** 2026 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference and Granite State Association
- **When:** Saturday, October 24, 2026
- **Where:** Hybrid Meeting to be held at the
  - Geneva Point Center
  - 108 Geneva Point Road
  - Moultonborough, NH and via Zoom Webinar, YouTube Livestream access*information to be provided upon registration*

**THEME** This year we will explore the theme “New Every Morning” based on Lamentations 3:22-23.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** Joining us to celebrate the Conference’s 225th Anniversary will be United Church of Christ General Minister and President, the Reverend Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. Dr. Thompson will offer the Keynote Address for our gathering.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OCTOBER 24TH, PLEASE CALL DENISE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS ON REGISTRATION. HELEN GOSS WILL BE ATTENDING AND HAPPY TO HAVE COMPANY FOR THIS DAYS EVENT AT GENEVA POINT.**



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                      | Tuesday                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                         | Friday                                   | Saturday                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>27</b><br>10:00am Worship Celebration<br>11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship                                                                                                                                                              | <b>28</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting                                                    | <b>29</b><br>11:30am - 1:45pm Food<br>Pantry Open                                                         | <b>30</b>                                                                | <b>1</b><br>9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program<br>12:00pm - 2:15pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150           | <b>2</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting  | <b>3</b>                                                                         |
| <b>4</b><br>Neighbors in Need Offering<br>10:00am World Communion Worship Celebration<br>11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship<br>11:30am Mission Committee meeting<br>2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens<br><b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> | <b>5</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting                                                     | <b>6</b><br>11:30am - 1:45pm Food<br>Pantry Open                                                          | <b>7</b>                                                                 | <b>8</b><br>12:00pm - 2:15pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150                                          | <b>9</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting  | <b>10</b>                                                                        |
| <b>11</b><br>10:00am Worship Celebration<br>11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship                                                                                                                                                              | <b>12</b><br>OFFICES CLOSED<br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting<br><b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY</b> | <b>13</b><br>11:30am - 1:45pm Food<br>Pantry Open                                                         | <b>14</b><br>9:00am - 11:00am Senior Non-Food Pantry                     | <b>15</b><br>12:00pm - 2:15pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 | <b>16</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting | <b>17</b>                                                                        |
| <b>18</b><br>Potluck Luncheon after church<br>10:00am Worship Celebration<br>11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship<br>2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens<br><b>POTLUCK LUNCHEON</b>                                                        | <b>19</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting                                                    | <b>20</b><br>11:30am - 1:45pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>4:00pm Trustees meeting<br><b>Trustees Meeting</b>   | <b>21</b>                                                                | <b>22</b><br>12:00pm - 2:15pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 | <b>23</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting | <b>24</b><br>8:00am - 4:00pm NHCUC 225TH Annual meeting<br><b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> |
| <b>25</b><br>10:00am Worship Celebration<br>11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship                                                                                                                                                              | <b>26</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting                                                    | <b>27</b><br>11:30am - 1:45pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>5:00pm Diaconate meeting<br><b>DIACONATE MEETING</b> | <b>28</b><br>5:00pm - 6:00pm VLC Trunk or Treat<br><b>TRUNK OR TREAT</b> | <b>29</b><br>12:00pm - 2:15pm Food<br>Pantry Open<br>3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 | <b>30</b><br>12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting | <b>31</b>                                                                        |

## LECTIONARIES

**OCTOBER 4, 2026**

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*World Communion Sunday*

*Neighbors In Need Offering*

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-12

Matthew 21:33-46

**OCTOBER 11, 2026**

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

**OCTOBER 18, 2026**

*Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99

Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

**OCTOBER 25, 2026**

*Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

and Psalm 90:1-5, 13-17

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46



10-12 Sally Kratt  
 10-12 Patricia Bean  
 10-13 Cindy Russell  
 10-14 Cheryl Furtado  
 10-15 Tim Psaledakis  
 10-16 Mark Schiller  
 10-17 Mary Ellen Shea  
 10-17 Megan Croce  
 10-19 Marcia Smith  
 10-19 Julia Edwards  
 10-20 Robert Bechtold  
 10-21 Sue Davidson  
 10-22 Eve Walker  
 10-22 Elaine Paul  
 10-23 Peter Hyde  
 10-25 Muriel Magg  
 10-25 Mike James  
 10-26 Harry Smith  
 10-28 Joseph Leighton



10-03 Chris and Tracy Strout  
 10-15 Russell and Dortha Seybold  
 10-16 Peter and Muriel Magg

### Address Change:

Bilo Bell  
 41 Poplar Court  
 Building A4  
 Unit 4211  
 North Conway, NH 03860  
 Phone: 603-307-1259

(She's in the new condos  
 behind TJ Max.)



Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially:  
**Evelyn Porter, Deb Smith, Mike James, Frances Richardson, Barbara Starkey, Lee Coffield and Pastor Sue Davidson.**

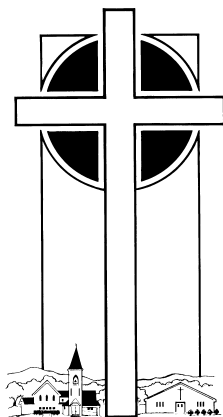
**Remember those in our extended care facilities:**

*Mineral Springs:* **Liz George-Hussey**  
*Mountain View:* **Jean Smykla**

**Please call the church office with prayer concerns if you wish names to be listed in the next *Congregate Tidings*.**

*The Congregate Tidings*  
First Church of Christ, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
PO Box 401  
N Conway, NH 03860-0401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

**Our Church Stewardship Campaign will begin in October with the dedication of pledges on November 8th.** Please be looking for your opportunity to make a difference in the mail.



We are searching for our next pastor, which not only takes time and effort, but also monetary support for mailings and especially during the interview process.

We thank you for any and all support you can give to this church.

"I have the feeling that in a balanced life, one should die penniless." ~ Art Garfunkel

### CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Church Administrator/Editor:

Denise Leighton

Music Director: Laurie Turley

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director:

Heather Ouellette

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

### Worship Service at 10am

**Church Office (603)356-2324**

**Denise Ext. #1**

**Fax Number (603)356-2106**

**Vaughan Food Pantry (603)602-1801**

**Vaughan Learning Center (603)356-5213**

**E-mail addresses:**

**churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com**

**Church Website:**

**www.firstchurchnc.com**

**YouTube: <https://firstchurchnc.com/service-videos/>**